

Book Reviews.

A NEW MEDICAL DICTIONARY: Including all the Words and Phrases used in Medicine, with their Proper Pronunciation and Definitions. By Geo. M. Gould, B.A., M.D. Philadelphia, 1890: P. Blakiston, Son & Co. Small octavo, 520 pages. Half dark leather, \$3.25; with thumb-index, half morocco, marble edges, \$4.25.

It is an era for coinage of new words, and it seems as though this year were one for dictionaries, of every description and serving all kinds of etymological purposes. When one can obtain a large Unabridged Webster's Dictionary as a premium for a subscription to a magazine, or one dollar in money, there is hardly an excuse to be without a friend—no matter if the make-up is poor—in case of an etymological necessity.

There are also the already well-known Century, Appletons', and National Medical Dictionaries, of broader scientific character, handsomely arranged and illustrated, and so profusely descriptive as to be veritable encyclopædias. All of these serve purposes chiefly outside of the field of medicine, and therefore permit the work under consideration to fit in without really competition. There is a decided need for a comprehensive and compact Medical Dictionary. This one is to be fully appreciated by the physician and student anxious for quick information upon some perplexing and recent medical term.

It is not a mere compilation from other dictionaries, but contains the product of patient research through the various periodicals and text-books in various branches of medicine, and also contains valuable tables of abbreviations, arteries, nerves, ganglia, bacilli micrococci, ptomaines, etc. : and all is bound in a handy volume, indexed and arranged as a book to work with quickly. It will meet with success and appreciative purchasers.

PRACTICAL PHOTO-MICROGRAPHY. By Andrew Pringle, F.R.M.S. New York, 1890: Scovill & Adams. Pages 183, with six plates.

Unquestionably practical photo-micrography would be of great interest and utility to the neurologist, and particularly to the neuro-anatomist and pathologist, if he could feel reasonably certain of securing even a tolerable photograph of his specimens without devoting weeks or even months of time to it. If photographs could be produced which would illustrate the common pathological changes which take place in the cerebro-spinal system, and show them as the microscopist sees them, photo-micrography would soon supersede any other method of illustration. It has been stated many times that "photographs do not lie." It is also claimed, whether justly or not, that drawings of microscopical specimens are not always open to the same criticism. Therefore, if it were possible, if from no other reason than this, to produce good photo-micrographs, even at the expense of considerable time and trouble, photo-micrography would soon be generally employed.

Until the methods of producing photo-micrographs have been very much more simplified, and made less expensive, the practice of the art is only likely to be indulged in by the few who have unlimited time and ample means at their disposal.

It is perhaps a comparatively simple process to photograph a microscopical specimen of a fly's foot, or the various bacilli, or a transverse section of the spinal cord, but it is an entirely different matter to so clearly depict minute pathological changes that the observer can exclaim at once, on viewing the photographer's work: "This is a photograph illustrating posterior spinal sclerosis, and this is gliomatous infiltration of the spinal cord, and this is general paresis." This, as far as the reviewer's knowledge goes, has never been satisfactorily accomplished.

The novice, or he who thinks good photo-micrographs can be made with facility by any one who possesses a microscope and a camera, is soon undeceived, and is perhaps somewhat appalled, by reading this work. He will soon find that a great deal of fine apparatus is necessary, and that a thoroughly practical knowledge of illumination, objectives, chromatic and apochromatic lenses, eye-pieces, and reflectors is absolutely essential if ultimate success is to be achieved.

The earnest student in photo-micrography will find Mr. Pringle's volume very valuable. It deals with its subject in a thoroughly scientific and yet practical manner. The description of all the various pieces of apparatus and how to use them, the selection of plates and the various solutions for developing them, are set forth in a clear and comprehensible manner.

The chapter on "Progressive Examples," in which the operations for subjects presenting various degrees of difficulty are detailed, is very interesting and instructive, and contains many valuable suggestions which the amateur photographer will find it to his advantage to carefully peruse.

Color-correct photography is a subject to which the author pays special attention. It is a subject of the greatest importance to the neuro-anatomist. Pathological specimens must be stained in order that their most salient features may be clearly depicted. The stains most favored are hæmatoxylin and carmine on eosine. Sections, when stained in these solutions and then photographed on ordinary plates, are exceedingly unsatisfactory, the resulting print appearing of a homogeneous blackness. This defect can be overcome, the author claims, by the use of ortho-chromatic plates.

The work, as a whole, is the best and most sensible contribution to photo-micrography that has appeared in many years. H.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

PHYSICIANS' AND STUDENTS' READY REFERENCE SERIES,
NO. 5. Second Edition.